

plague cases occur in places where infected rats have been found; in one instance dead plague rats and a dead human victim being found in the same room.

It has been found in the application of sanitary measures in various places that poisoning rats, disinfecting, medical inspection, etc., while they are very important auxiliaries, are not nearly so effective as the tearing out of filthy habitations and the reconstruction of such buildings on good sanitary principles. This kind of work goes far toward getting rid of the rat by alteration of environment, and at the same time decreases the chances of infection from such as remain, inasmuch as the rats will seek the darker recesses of the building, and in this way will not come in contact with its human occupants nearly so frequently as they do in the close, dark rooms of many of our present buildings in Chinatown. Not only this, but it has been repeatedly noted that the danger of contracting plague from infected rats is very much lessened when the contact with the rat is in a pure atmosphere, just as it is with human cases.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Ziemann. *Journal of Tropical Medicine*, Jan. 1, 1903.
2. Schilling. *Journal of Tropical Medicine*, Feb. 2, 1903.
3. Manson. *Journal of Tropical Medicine*, Mar. 16, 1903.
4. Castellani. *Journal of Tropical Medicine*, June 1, 1903.
5. Editorial. *Journal of Tropical Medicine*, Nov. 1, 1902. and July 15, 1903.
6. Dutton. *British Medical Journal*, Sept. 20, 1902.
7. Manson. *British Medical Journal*, Sept. 19, 1903.
8. Cantlie. *British Medical Journal*, Sept. 26, 1903.
9. Francis. Bulletin No. 11, Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.
10. Cobbold. *Intestinal Parasites*.
11. Thomson and Thomson. *Treatise on Plague*.
12. Creighton. *History of Epidemics in Great Britain*, Vol. I.
13. Montenegro. *Bubonic Plague*.

#### CORRECTION.

Dr. Nagel wishes to have the transcript of his discussion as printed on page 158 of the May JOURNAL somewhat altered. He says: "I stated that experience had taught me that the beginner is always looking for complete cupping of the disk, whilst such may be only partial though the diagnosis be fully established. Speaking to the aspect of sympathetomy as regards the cure of glaucoma, I dwelled somewhat on an analysis of 75 cases of that operation published in 1901."

**Champagne and Nostrums.** Far better, ladies, that the contents of a bottle of champagne should go into the water, where it will do no one any harm, than that the contents of a bottle of "patent medicine," with 40 per cent of alcohol in it, by volume, should be allowed to go into the system of a child and strike at his very soul, planting the seed of a future drunkard!—Bok, in *Ladies' Home Journal*.

**Lydia Pinkham's Alcohol.** I have had women rage in letters to this office because this magazine advertised a certain rootbeer, with really no alcohol in it at all, while all the time these same women were swallowing bottle after bottle of "Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound," containing, by volume, 20.6 percentage of alcohol, and allowing "Boker's Stomach Bitters," with 42.6 percentage of alcohol, by volume, to be advertised on their barns.—Bok, in *Ladies' Home Journal*.

## COMMUNICATION.

### Inert Preparations of Digitalis.

To the Editor of the State Journal:

Believing that the point is an important one because of the almost universal use of the drug in question, I wish to call attention to my findings, and to learn if any of my brethren have had similar experience. Some time ago I had occasion to use digitalis in a very critical case and got no result; a few days after, another case seemed to demand its use and I tried the fluid extract of a reliable manufacturer with no result; fearing that the specimen might have been old, I tried one after another of the standard manufacturers', until five trials had been made, and then gave up in disgust. On telling my experience to my brother practitioners I find that many of them gave up the use of all preparations of digitalis, except the infusion, because of their unreliability. Now, we are taught to regard digitalis as one of the "old reliables" in medicine and the cases demanding its use are usually ones where we cannot afford to trust to uncertainties. I should like to hear from the readers of the STATE JOURNAL regarding their opinion on the matter, for if the specimens on the market are of no value, the sooner we know it the better.

Very truly yours,  
C. S. H.

### NEW BUILDING FOR BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

The announcement has very recently been made of the intention to put up a new building for Bellevue Hospital, New York City, which, it is said, will be the finest hospital in the world. It is estimated that the building, with its thirteen pavilions, will cost about \$15,000,000, and will accommodate 2,500 patients. It will face on First Avenue and the East River, and occupy the land from Twenty-sixth to Twenty-ninth Streets. Accommodations will be provided for 100 physicians.

**A Frank Eclectic Opinion.**—The so-called doctor who is so deficient in cerebral gray matter that he is not better qualified to prescribe for his patrons than some firm manufacturing a cure-all had better quit the business. This kind of prescribing is simply reviving the old fallacy of entity in disease, which has passed through all stages from demonology to microbes; the use of charms, amulets, incantations and bacteria killers; and I honestly believe the charms, etc., were less harmful than the latter-day nostrums so extensively advertised in the medical and secular press. Ed. in *Eclectic Medical Journal*, Cincinnati, O.

**The National Bureau of Medicines and Foods** will be the first question at the meeting of the American Academy of Medicine, Atlantic City, June 4th. It will come up on the report of the Council on the paper read last year by Dr. H. Bert. Ellis, and at that time referred to the Council for consideration and recommendations.

**No Right to Give Nostrums.** No woman has a moral right to give a medicine to her child, or to any member of her family, or to take any medicine herself, the ingredients of which either she does not know or has not the assurance of a responsible physician to be harmless. There is nothing so dangerous as drugs used without intelligence or taken without advice. The physician's fee of a dollar or two, which the mother seeks to save, may prove to be the costliest form of economy which she has ever practiced.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.